

Pudge and Beverly Merkley
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Interviewed by: Elaine Carr
Transcribed by: Elaine Carr

Elaine: I'm here at 1357 North 3500 West with Pudge and Beverly Merkley at their home. Today is March 20, 2007. Since I'm interviewing two of you, one of you can answer the question pertaining to your family and then the other one. Eventually your lives will be tied together in our story.

Beverly who were your parents?

Beverly: My mother was Ezma Tess Hatch Siddoway. My father was James Raymond Siddoway.

Elaine: When did they come to the Uinta Basin?

Beverly: Both of my parents were born here in Vernal. Their parents, my grandparents, were more or less pioneers to the valley, both of them. Both sets of my grandparents lived here in the Ashley Valley all their lives. My grandparents were William H. Siddoway and Emily Jane Dunster Siddoway, and Samuel Joseph Hatch and Sarah Ivie Teeples Hatch. Both my grandfathers were in the sheep industry. My father was also in the sheep industry. From the time I can remember anything. I can remember the little lambs and the mountains, and the way that the sheep men lived in those days.

Elaine: Pudge can you tell me who your parents were and where they lived?

Pudge: My dad was born in Vernal in 1906. His dad was Charley Merkley. He came to Vernal when he was eight years old. He came here in about 1882. He settled an area down on 1500 West. Central Canal, as it comes out of Ashley Creek and went down to 500 North where it comes together at 1500 West. That was the old original canal that my great granddad built there. They brought the water out of Ashley Creek and that's why it meanders down until it hits 1500 West and then it goes straight along that street. That originally was called the Merkley canal, because Nelson Merkley built it.

My mothers parents were John Irie and Hattie Burton. They came out of Leadville, Colorado, to Vernal. My mother (Carrie) was born here in 1906. Merkley's were the second group of people that came into the Ashley Valley when Brigham Young originally sent the people in here. Then, the Burtons came a little bit later. They settled on Green River at the confluence of Brush Creek where it hits the Green River just south of the Dinosaur National Monument. Grandpa built the first ferry to cross the river. That's where he had it. Then, later it was moved down just south of the Jensen Bridge. He had the first ferry. That's where he established his homestead at Brush Creek and Green River.

They were always in the livestock business, the Burtons and also the Merkleys. That's what most people did. The main livelihood was livestock and farming. That was the main source of living for

eighty to ninety percent of the people.

Elaine: Do you remember any interesting stories that your parents told you of what this valley was like in the beginning?

Pudge: I've got to tell you a story that might be of interest to some people. My granddad had holdings on Diamond Mountain, my granddad Burton. Diamond Springs on Diamond Mountain was originally owned by my granddad and his brother. They had a horse ranch there. Butch Cassidy came through this country occasionally. He stopped down on the Green River to cross on the ferry and commented on my granddads good horses. This was in the late 1880's or 1890's and he commented on what good horses he had there in his corral. Grandpa Burton made the comment to him, "Yes, you son of a gun, you ought to know. You stole enough of them off of Diamond Mountain." But, he had respect for those people, because they'd take a horse but they'd leave a horse. They'd trade him. He didn't know about it but that's how they traded. That's how they got fresh horses. That was one little story that I heard Grandpa Burton tell about way back in the late 1800's.

Elaine: Can you think of any stories that your parents told you of early things happening to them when they first came here?

Beverly: My great grandfather who was Alva Hatch was sent here by the Indian Government to help settle the Uinta Basin. He was one of the first white men to come here. He was an early pioneer here. One time there was a Hatch Town, which was named after him and his family. He was the son of Jeremiah Hatch. Jeremiah was my great, great grandfather. Jeremiah, in his lifetime had three wives. But at the time he lived with my great grandmother, he just had the one wife. She died and left him with eleven children I think. He came to Heber City to live with a brother who was going to help him. It was him that was sent by the government because he had such a way of working with the Indians. Alva was his oldest son by his first marriage and he actually came to the valley before Jeremiah did. Jeremiah sent him on ahead, so he actually arrived here in the valley before Jeremiah did. But Jeremiah was very, very, instrumental in helping set up the Basin and working with the Indians. That was always a favorite story of mine because he was such a small man in stature, but he had a great influence on people and especially the Indians. He had a special way that he just could reach the Indians and work with them.

My Grandfather Siddoway was also from a polygamy family. But his mother was the third wife and when the Manifesto came out my grandfather picked his first wife which lived in Idaho and he went back up there and left my grandfathers mother on her own with the two children that she had. He worked from the time he was a young, young, man. We have many histories of how he had to work because his mother had no means of making a living for he and his sister. So he had to help her from the time he was a very young person. We have lot's of histories that tell different things about him as he came here to the valley.

He said when he entered the valley he didn't even own a pair of shoes. So he started from the bottom up. He was very instrumental in helping settle Vernal. He had a great hand in a lot of things. He first went into the sawmill business when he first came here to Vernal. He just worked one thing and then another. Then he went into the livestock. Then, he became interested in

banking. He was president of the Uintah Stake Bank for all my life. All my life I remember him. He was in the bank the day he fell down the steps which caused him to have pneumonia and he passed away from that. But, he worked right up until the last day of his life.

Elaine: He's the one that had to start working when he was young because his father had left?

Beverly: Yes, he never had a father that he really knew because his mother was left on her own with him and his sister in Salt Lake City. I've never really known how he got out here to the Uinta Basin. I think he came with an uncle. But, he was here as a young man. He was here for quite a few years before he went back to Salt Lake. He and my grandmother were married in the Logan Temple and then he brought her to the Basin.

Elaine: Pudge, did you think of any more stories of your grandparents time or your parents time?

Pudge: My granddad Merkley died when I was four years old. I remember him. He used to ride a big Sorrel, bald faced, four white stocking footed horse. He was quite a guy because he liked to race horses and he'd bet of them. He would bet on anything. He'd bet on a horse race or a foot race or anything. Grandpa Merkley enjoyed a good challenge. He was inflicted with asthma in a early time in his life. One of his jobs in his later life was, he herded bucks up at what we called Buck Pasture, where the Oaks Park Reservoir is now. That used to be the Buck Pasture for the various sheep herds. He contracted to herd the bucks during the summer time or off season. He spent a lot of his time there later in life. But, he was always tied to farming and that's the way my dad came by it. My dad and most of his family was raised and stayed with the land and livestock and that's how come my dad chose the occupation he did. My dad Sid Merkley was considered one of the better farmers in this country. He loved the land and he loved his work.

Elaine: Did he own all this property along this road?

Pudge: Well no, he only owned where his original home is now. It was the property that was originally owned by Hatch Murray. We started down on 500 North and about 2000 East. That was where we lived when I was born. It would be down just this side of the current city dump. Just under the hill from there. He had one hundred sixty acres there. It was a tough way to farm in them days. It was rough and the country was uneven and a lot of willows and swamp. In 1937 he moved up on 3500 West where my mother still has her home. They spent the rest of their lives there. Dad followed in the footsteps of his dad. He liked horse races and he liked athletic contests. He made a big effort in his life to make sure he attended all the baseball games and basketball games that his grandkids, which would be our kids were in.

When we were growing up, our dad's home was always a haven for young men. Young men had a attraction for dad. I had a brother that was four years older than me but he passed away when he was fifteen. He had rheumatic fever and they didn't have no cure in those days, but now they would have cured that. He just had an attraction for young men. They liked him. I think he did quite a lot of young men a lot of good in this country. I know when I was a young man in high school. Good Lordy, I'd come home and my bed might be full, because dad would go to town and if somebody needed a bed or a meal, he'd bring them home. A lot of them were my own friends. On one occasion there was two brothers that lived down in Randlett and they went to some kind

of event. Dad made the comment to them, "How you guys gonna get home?"

"Well we don't know. We haven't got a ride back to Randlett." So he said, "Hey, you come and go home with me." He brought them home and when I got home they were both in my bed. So, when I crawled in, there had to be three of us there. But, that's the way dad was. From that time, those two brothers right to this day they just think the world of him and they spend a lot of time up to our place. They were good friends of mine and to him too. He did a lot of young guys a lot of good. He taught them how to work.

He had a philosophy. He said, "You know it's tough to raise a boy with out a rope, a tree, a dog, or a horse." Now, you stop and think about that for a minute. That's a pretty good mix to raise a boy. If he gets a tree and a rope he can invent his own entertainment and entertain himself if he has any initiative. He needs a dog to be his friend and he needs a horse to learn how to trust people and how to train and associate with people and animals both. So if you got a rope and a tree, and a dog or a horse you can raise your boy. That was his philosophy.

Elaine: Where was your home Beverly? Where did you grow up?

Beverly: I grew up until I was nine years old down on Vernal Avenue. My grandfathers first home was down by Ashley Creek on North Vernal Avenue. He owned both sides of that all down where the Athletic Club is today. All down there on both sides of the street was my grandfathers property. I was born in the home that he first built here when he came to Ashley Valley, and it still sits today down on Vernal Avenue just south of Ashley Creek.

Elaine: That kind of tall Victorian house.

Beverly: Yes, right here, (points to painting on the wall). Then when I was two, it's kind of a funny story because my mother was young and she was the last home before you come to Ashley Creek and there was not much beyond that at the time. She had myself and an older sister and she was afraid to be down there. She didn't have a car and it was a long ways to town. My aunt lived up the street about two miles on Vernal Avenue (close to town). When my father and his brother were up on the mountain in the spring lambing out the sheep, and they stayed right on the mountain. Sometimes they'd go two weeks without coming home. My mother and my aunt got together and traded homes. So when the men came home my mother was moved up on Vernal Avenue and her sister-in-law was living down in the house that my father had gone to the mountain and left his family in. I always detected just a little bit of aggravation in my father when he would here this story because he loved that home down on Vernal Avenue. He thought there was no place to be raised, only on Ashley Creek. He loved that place all his life. My grandfather had a lot of property in there so we just moved from one house to another. And, they said, "How could your mother trade houses like that." And I said, "Well, neither one of them owned the houses. My grandfather owned them both, and the families were just living in his homes. They just traded." We moved back up the street. One reason mom wanted to be up there was because the homes were closer and we lived right next door to my Uncle Ralph Siddoway. He wasn't in the sheep business and he was always home with his family. So mom just kind relied on being closer to Uncle Ralph if she needed help where she didn't have a car or anything.

I have many many happy memories of Diamond Mountain, or just the mountain. My father ran

sheep. He was up there most of the summer. In the summer time up until I was nine years old, we would spend most of the summers on the mountain. Our home was our sheep wagon. As soon as school was out mom would start to take us up to the mountain. I remember the old dug-way. I was petrified of that dug-way. I remember when my mother used to start up around it in the funny little old Model T she drove, I'd hide my head and not look because it would scare me to death. But we would go up every Monday morning and we would stay all week and then on Friday afternoon we would come down the mountain and my mother would bake and get everything ready to take back up the next week and then do the washing. Sunday we would stay down and go to church because that was always very important to my mother that we went to church. So we'd go to church on Sunday and early Monday morning we would go back up the mountain. When my older sister turned thirteen, she rebelled and said, "I'm not spending any more summers on the mountain." My mother wouldn't leave her down here with relatives so we all stopped spending our summers on the mountain.

Elaine: But you liked it?

Beverly: We all loved it. We had good times up there on the mountain. It was kind of lonely and it was different than being home. But, we loved the mountain. We loved to go up. I used to love, I remember, my father would get up real early in the morning and go out around the sheep and I loved to go with him on the horse because he would put me in front of him. It was one of my favorite things to do, was go out that time of morning and go to the bedding grounds where the sheep had been bedded down and listen to the bells and the little lambs blat. I loved to do that. Every once in awhile daddy would put me on the horse with him early in the morning and take me out around the sheep. There was just many many special memories that we have from up there. Like I said when I was about nine we stopped because my sister wouldn't go.

We had left Vernal Avenue and moved where my folks home is now at 395 West 100 South. We just lived up at the end of the block from my Grandma and Grandpa Siddoway. That was another thing that was the joy of my life because I loved being that close to my grandparents and seeing the way grandma did things. She was a wonderful lady to be around, both of my grandmothers. I had very, very, good grandparents. I was very close to them. I spent a lot of time with both of them. Both of my grandparents were sheep men. My Grandpa Hatch was in the sheep business all his life.

At the time that my father and mother got married she was their oldest child and then she had four brothers. After my mother married and left home and had her oldest daughter, my grandmother six months later had another daughter. Then after my younger sister had been born, my grandmother had still another daughter. So, my mother had two young sisters that was more like her children because my grandmother was ill a lot and they were at our place a lot.

I think I had a very good childhood. Of all the things that are important to me was the memories that I have of my grandparents. I am so thankful I had the opportunity to be raised here in the valley. I can remember when I was young, it used to be a very important thing to me that I be able to be where my grandchildren are raised. It's always been kind of amazing to me because that was always a hope all my life. We have eleven grandchildren and ten of them were raised right here in Vernal where I had them in my home almost everyday. That was special to me.

Elaine: Pudge was your family in the sheep business, the cattle business or just agriculture?

Pudge: I'm going to tell you about what I remember when I was young. The first year I went to school we lived down where Dan Richens' lives now. In them days there were busses around, but I don't know if there were enough to run all over the valley or what, but oft' times we either walked or rode our horse to central school, my brother and I. We were lucky, because we had a horse to ride. There was the George Massey family that lived down in there, those kids always walked and there was the Burns kids, Clyde and Clara Burns were my age, and they walked. They didn't have a horse. But, sometimes my brother and I rode the horse or we walked. As I remember it seemed like the roads must have been bad or something because the bus didn't run in the spring time when it was real muddy or something. We'd ride our horse to school and one of the things I remember was on the west side where the Central School was, there was hitching post to tie your horses to. There would be fifteen or twenty horses tied there to that rack and also down the north side of that school was hitching racks.

Then we moved to Maeser in my second year of school and there was a bus come out of Dry Fork but because we lived less two and a half miles, none of the kids on this street could ride the bus so again we rode our horse or walked to school along with all the other kids. There was the Bowden kids, and the Jolley kids up here, and Jude and Carol Hacking, and the Ashby's over on the corner. Also the thing that I remember real vividly about this ole street as it is now, was the enormous sage brush lining both sides of this street. Sage brush, and I'm not exaggerating when I say the sage brush grew anywhere from sixteen to eighteen feet tall, both sides of the road. In fact this street, when we moved up here was just like driving down kind of an alley way because the trees and sagebrush were both sides of the street. Right out in front of our house here there was two huge Cottonwood trees and humongous sagebrush plants. They were solid. You couldn't get through them or anything. Another thing that was unique about it was the amount of orchards. There was the old Clarence Bird orchard right north of where our house sits now. That was orchards. They had plums, pears, apples and apricots. Then right across the street, right over there, Uncle Bill Murray had an apple orchard. He had apples, pears and apricots. It was about a five acre orchard. In fact all these trees up here are still the remnant of the old Clarence Bird orchard.

Elaine: I remember when I was a kid we used to walk up here above your house along the road and pick those big purple plums.

Pudge: Yeah, there were plums, they grew wonderful fruit. Another orchard was over here at Rulon Hackings, Jude Hackings dad. He had about a five or six acre orchard. He had apples and pears and apricots in that orchard. So it was common, lots of people had fairly good sized orchards in this neighborhood.

Elaine: It's strange that we don't still have any of those large orchards.

Pudge: I think our weathers short season, oft' times the apricot blossoms would freeze in the spring or the apples would freeze. There's other climates like Grand Junction and the Wasatch Front that had a little longer growing season is probably one of the reasons. But, there was a lot of fruit orchards in this country back in them days.

One of the things I enjoyed most, well I didn't enjoy it at that time, was going to school. We'd start down the road with Harmel Jolley, they were in the sheep business and they had horses. So

there kids rode horses. We'd start down the street dragging a rope, a lariat rope on our horse, and by the time we'd get to school we'd have two or three sleighs behind it. All the kids along the street we'd pick up and pull them to school. What I guess I'm saying is I believe that I've lived in the best of times. We lived right on the edge of the old frontier when lots of places we went with teams and wagons. Well just a lot of kids in this area rode their horses or walked to school. Then, eventually along about when I was in the third or forth grade they let us ride the bus if we'd walk up to either one of the corners. We could get on the bus and ride.

There's one more experience I had when I was just a little kid. We moved up to Maeser when I was seven, so it had to be prior to then. My dad would come with a team and wagon and go up in the coal mines right up here behind our house, what we call the Coal Mine Basin, and get a load of coal in our wagon. I'd come with him on different trips. One of the things that I'll never forget. It's a most unique sound in the world is to have a iron tired wagon pulled through real cold snow and ice. It makes a sound that I say it can't be duplicated. But, anybody older than I am will know what I'm talking about when I say the sound of the iron tired wagon in the freezing snow. It's a sound that's just completely unable to duplicate. But, I came with my dad, we'd go from down there on Ashley Creek and up to the Coal Mine, to Wardle's Coal Mine and get coal and get back. It would take all day to do it. In winter it would be so cold you wouldn't ride on the wagon, you'd walk behind it to keep warm, to keep from freezing. That was an experience that I sure remember clearly. It was kind of rough but it was one of the most pleasant memories I ever had, I do believe. Because like I said, that was right on the edge of the frontier. Not everybody had automobiles. We didn't have an automobile until maybe in the late thirties or early forties. We always had a vehicle after then but prior to that time we would go to town in our wagon. Down where the old Ashton Brothers Store was, out behind there, there was hitching posts there where the parking lot between the Ashton building and the Oak House is. It was a parking lot all right, but it was for horses and wagons. There were hitching rails and you'd tie your team to a hitching rail or your saddle horse. Then over behind the old J. C. Penney store there was another. I remember that was a big parking lot for wagons and saddle horses that people rode to town. Up until the early 1940's probably only half the people in the country had a car. Most of them went by wagon or saddle horse. Then, long after the war, almost everybody had an automobile to drive.

Elaine: Do you remember some of the other stores in Vernal, and businesses?

Pudge: Yes, of course everybody knows the story of the Bank of Vernal. They built that and getting the bricks made for it was such a problem. A sharp old guy by the name of Horace Coltharp, he got the bright idea to have the bricks shipped from Salt Lake parcel post. They could package those bricks and ship them cheaper than you could send a wagon into Salt Lake and bring it back with the bricks. That was one of the stories they tell. Up on the other corner was a bank called the Uintah State Bank. Right next to it was a butcher shop run by Bev's uncle, Charlie Hatch. The old Vogue Theater, that was the only theater in town. You went into it and you went through the lobby and then you went through a curtain. I remember going to a show when you didn't hear the sound. They just had pictures and you read it. Of course I was little enough that I couldn't read it and it was not very interesting. I think the price of a show ticket was either ten or fifteen cents. There was a lot of people didn't go because they didn't have the ten or fifteen cents. A family friend of ours, E. W. Belcher, Warren Belcher, he started his café. There was a little house there. That's where people took their cream to sell it. That was the main stay of life was

selling cream or eggs for a lot of people. People would take their cream in there in cans or buckets and he would buy it from them. He got the idea to start selling sandwiches out in front of his cream station. That's where his Seven Eleven Café started. He just had a little ole' building eight by eight in size and he just raised the flap up and that would be the counter and you could buy a hamburger and pop and stuff like that. He just grew from that into his current Seven Eleven Ranch Café. He built a little café later and he called it the Pig Stand. He always served good food and he had a good clientele right there where the current Seven Eleven Café is.

Some of the other businesses. Of course the old court house stood there. There was a big park around the old building. It's right where the new court house is. The Vernal Drug had been there for many a year. Then across the street they had what they called the Uintah Drug. It was opened by the Bank of Vernal. Then one of the other things I remember is the Dough Boy, the statue of the soldier boy. I remember when that sat in the center intersection there in town. It sit right in the center there. They moved it and one of the reasons they moved it was because after there got to be more and more automobiles it was getting run into and one thing or another. So they moved it. They must have moved it in the late thirties or maybe early forties. They moved it because it was a traffic hazard.

Ashton Brother's was a long time business that was west of the Bank of Vernal which is now Zions Bank.

Beverly: There was Louey Rackin's Hat Shop. There was a café.

Pudge: Oh the old Grill Café.

Beverly: It set right west of the Bank of Vernal. Then there was another drug store.

Pudge: The Uintah Drug and then Ashton Brother's.

Beverly: Then Louey Rackins, and there was a paint shop, Jack Girt. Jack Girt was a man that painted in the area.

Pudge: One time the Vernal City Office was right there west of Ashton Brother's. At that time the Vernal City Office was a little office about ten feet wide and about sixteen feet deep. It sit right on Main Street and that was the entire office including the police station. It sit right there straight across the street from where Mr. S' store is now. It was on the south side of Main Street.

Beverly: It was just above Louey Rackin's little dress shop.

Pudge: Then on up where the old post office was on the corner of Main Street and 1st West, that was the post office. West of that was what I think is the first garage. Henry Schaefermeyer ran a Chevrolet garage there. That was one of the early garages in town. I've heard that Showalter's established their business in 1936 and I think this was before that. It was originally the old Livery Stable and they made it into a car garage. That building right west of the Chamber of Commerce building is what that was. It was the Livery Stable and they made it into a garage. That was before Showalter built theirs in 1936.

Dave Whitmire's Tin Shop was right on the corner of 2nd West 1st South. He'd make stove pipes

and things like that people needed. Flashing's for roofs maybe, or around your window seal. Mother Adams had a home there. I remember when there chicken coop was right on the corner and there house was back in a ways.

Beverly: There house was right out on the street and the chicken coop was between Main Street and 1st South.

Pudge: One of the earliest service stations in town was right where Lynn Richardson's Station is today. His dad or his granddad ran a service station there and served gas on the corner of 2nd West and Main Street. That was one of the earliest service stations I ever remembered where you could buy gas. It's Lynn Richardson that owns it now. It would be his granddad that started it. His dad ran it for years, Ken Richardson. And, I don't remember any other service stations. Do you Beverly?

Beverly: No, that's the first one I ever remembered.

Pudge: I remember walking by it when we went up to Grandma Burtons. But, probably the biggest difference between then and now Elaine is everybody walked where they went. If you went less than a half mile, you walked. When Bev and I were little if you went anywhere up to a half mile you just walked. Not everybody even had horses. You were lucky if you did. Well, they'd have their teams, but you didn't ride your teams. If you had a team and a saddle horse both, you were lucky. But, everywhere you went you walked. If you went from here to a mile down the street to school you just walked. Nobody thought there was any other way to think about it. I remember walking to school many a time with your aunts and uncles, the Bowdens. We'd cut through the field here and walk to Church. That's how you'd get to Church, you walked. You didn't worry about getting a ride to or from.

Elaine: Let's talk about school. Beverly, where did you go to school and do you remember some of your teachers?

Beverly: Oh, I remember all my grade school teachers. In the first grade, I had kind of an interesting elementary school year. I went some place almost different every year because the year I was in the third grade they started to build the new Central School that's there on Vernal Avenue, now it's an adult school of some kind. So, it seemed like our class was the one that they moved every year because there wasn't enough room. They had torn the old school building down, so in the first and second grades I went to the old Central School. Then in the third grade my class went up to the old high school in a room that was vacant and they let our elementary class go up there. In the fourth and fifth grade I went, there was a little building out behind what at the time was the Tabernacle, now where the Temple is. There were two school rooms and I went to the fourth and fifth grade in that building. Then when I was in the sixth grade, that was the first year that the Central School was used. I got to go in the sixth grade down there.

In the first grade I had a teacher that her name was Miss Walker. In the second grade I had a teacher who moved up here from Delta to teach and her name was Miss Sampson. In the third grade I had Alta Wardle. In the fourth grade I had Iris White. In the fifth grade I had Pear Schaefer and in the sixth grade I had Blaine Lee.

I would like to go back and tell about the perfect discipline the teachers had in the classes at that time. I can remember when I lived down on Vernal Avenue we walked quite a ways to school every day. Very seldom, we ever went out the door to school that my mother didn't stop us and say, "Now you girls, remember your school teachers are there to teach, not discipline, and if I hear of any of you having trouble with your school teacher, when you get home, you're in worse trouble." That was the way we were raised in those days and we respected our school teachers. If you didn't respect your school teacher and you did something wrong you were disciplined for it. I have to tell this little thing because I think it's one of the most embarrassing things that ever happened to me in grade school. When we were in the fourth grade in Iris White's class there was an empty field just up the street from us that was owned by Walter Wooley, who was one of the girls in my classes father. We would go up in that field during recess and noon time and make a fox and geese path in the snow. And, we would play fox and geese in the snow. Then, we'd go back to school drenching wet. About the second day we did it, Miss White stopped us at the door and she said, "You girls, I'm going to paddle you because you know better than to go get wet like that and then have to sit in those wet stockings." I'm sure she had no idea what I had on under those wet stockings. But, she said, "You strip them off; you go put them over the heater; and you stand in front of the heater until your stockings are dry." Well my mother always made me wear long legged underwear under my stockings. And, I thought, "What am I going to do?" The other girls stripped their stockings off and put them across the heater and I just stood there. "She said, "Beverly, get those stockings off." She started over towards me with the yard stick. I pulled the stockings off and there I stood in my long legged underwear.

Elaine: Were they wet too?

Beverly: They were wet too, but she didn't make me remove them. But, that was the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to me in grade school because everybody in the class saw me stand there in those long legged underwear. It was very embarrassing. I loved school. I especially liked math. My favorite activity as soon as we got out of the class room was to run. I loved to run. I thought I was pretty good because there was only one boy in the class that could beat me at running. That same boy was the only one in the class that could beat me when we would stand and have the math, the teacher would show the math cards and we would answer. He was the only boy that could beat me in the math competition and the only boy that could beat me running. I never did get so I could outrun him. But , I loved school and I loved my teachers.

One thing I remember about Miss Schaefer, she was my fifth grade teacher. When we would come back in from lunch, in those days we didn't have hot lunches, we carried our lunch with us when we left home in the morning. She would always read to us after we had come back in from our lunch break. I remember she would always sit there with a pretty white lace handkerchief in her hand and hold that handkerchief as she read the stories. I couldn't wait everyday for story time to come because I loved the stories. They read us books like Tom Sawyer and there was a series of books that were written about a goat, Billie Whiskers. The author of those book just kept you right out on your seat. They were such good stories and had such good morals to them.

Pudge: Treasure Island was one they read too.

Beverly: Miss White and Miss Schaefer loved to read those Billie Whiskers books to us. I just had a very good elementary school. I loved all my teachers. I loved school. I loved my friends.

Elaine: Who were some of your friends?

Beverly: My main friends through my grade school years, none of them live here any more. One of them was a cousin of mine named Joy McClean. Other friends were Sandra Larson and Doris Burton. When I lived down on Vernal Avenue, it was different growing up then, than it is now because your whole neighborhood was friendly. You loved all your neighbors and your neighbors loved you. You all played together. One of my very favorite friends all my growing up years was my cousin, Marva Batty. Marva was nine months older than I was, was all the difference in our age, but she went to school a year a head of me. But, she was always one of my very favorite friends. Then, there was the Preece family and the Stagg family. I had two or three sets of cousins that lived down on Vernal Avenue and there was all my cousins. There was the Lundels, they lived just up and around the corner. There was the Calders. I think that was my favorite friends in grade school. We just were one big happy neighborhood. I still have such a close relationship today with the Preece family. They just lived up the street two houses from me. The Stagg family, most of the Staggs were older than I was but they were just good people and good friends.

I can remember one thing that we used to do in the summer that used to really bug my mother to death. There was a little pond that was down the street about a block from my house. We used to love to get in that pond and get pollywog's. My mother would tell us, "Don't go down there and get in the pollywog's." But, we'd do it anyway and I remember one of the neighbors had a big weeping willow tree. We'd hear our mother holler at us and then we'd look and see her coming down the street. Every time as she passed that weeping willow tree she would break off a branch and she would whip us all the way home on the legs with that weeping willow and I'll tell you when the legs are wet it stung. She eventually broke us of going to that pond for the pollywog's. It was just a wonderful life. None of us ever had any money. I can remember the Calder Creamery was just down the street from my house, where the Coca Cola Plant sits today. They made the best popsicle's in the world. I can remember sometimes I would save pennies. They cost five pennies and some times I would have to save for two weeks to get five pennies so I could run down there and buy a popsicle. I remember one time I was trying to think, "What could I do to raise some money" I was under nine years of age at the time. I went through my house trying find something to do. I thought well, "I don't think I can help anybody clean house because I don't think they'd hire me because I'm not that good at cleaning house." I used to once in awhile tend one of the neighbors little kids and they'd give me a penny. So you can see it was quite different than today. I had an old wall paper book my mother got from Jack Girt, who ran the paint shop we talked about earlier. I thought, "Maybe the people would like to buy the pages in that wall paper book. I was so happy because I went selling the pages in that wall paper book and I came home with four cents. There was a little lady named Kathleen Calder that had quite a group of little children. It seemed like if I was trying to sell punch or what ever I was trying to sell Kathleen would always buy something. You know, you remember that. So, I took that crazy wall paper book and went down to her place and she went through it. She found this one picture of the wall paper that was horses and little children. She said, "Oh, my boy's would love that in there bedroom." So I tore out the page of wall paper and I made four cents that day. I thought that was just wonderful. Money didn't come as easy then as it does today.

I loved my school years and my school teachers. I had the highest respect for my school teachers. I had the highest respect for my school teachers because I was taught by my parents that I better. Then I went up to the junior high and the high school, which they've both been destroyed now. I had very good school years and lots of good friends and lots of happy memories.

Elaine: Pudge do you remember your teachers?

Pudge: You bet I do. I know every teacher I ever had. I went to my first year in school at Central down town as a result of us living in the other end of the valley. Then we moved to Maeser. In Maeser at that time we went from the first grade through the eighth grade. There was no junior high in them days. We went to Maeser from grade one to grade eight. It just seemed like every one in the school was buddies whether they was in the first grade or the eighth. It didn't make much difference. I know as a result of going to school like that I developed friendships with older guys. Two that stands out in my mind is Paul Timothy and Lorenzo Bodily. They were great big husky guys. The war came on in 1941. Kids that had been in this school was old enough at the time the war broke out that they would go to war. I get real emotional when I talk about these two friends of mine. They both got killed in the war. But, they were older than me and of course when war came in 1941 they took off and went to war and they were both killed. They were maybe in the seventh or eighth grade and I was in the second or third grade. I kind of looked up to them two.

That's the good thing that came out of going to school, several classes in the same school. We were going through some old pictures here and from the time I was in the second to eighth grade about once a year they'd take us out on the south side of the building and line our class all up and take a picture of our class. We had a class picture. Bev was talking about discipline and it would shock a lot of people to know that from my second grade class right through to my eighth grade class, the smallest class was thirty one students. Some of them had forty, there was that many kids in the picture, so you know there was at least that many in the class, because maybe one or two would be absent on the day the picture was taken. But, a teacher could handle them because the kids had discipline and the teacher had full authority in the class and discipline. The kids, when the teacher would speak to them, they'd respond. When they talk about one teacher now days, they can't teach more than seventeen or eighteen kids in a class. That's all hog wash in my way of thinking. We send a bunch of disciplined well mannered kids in a class and a teacher could teach thirty or thirty-five. The discipline was never a problem.

We learned to work earlier. Of course, when I grew up, when the war broke out I'd only be twelve years old. By gosh the guys were drafted in the army and my dad ran the farm and then he and his brother had a old stationary thrashing machine. There were only about two or three of those machines in the entire valley at that time. Everybody grew lots of grain. We'd start thrashing in late July and maybe not finish up until November or December because they'd cut their grain with binders and stack it. We'd thrash all the grain out in the fields when the weather was good and then when the weather got bad, why there was still grain to be thrashed so we'd go to where they'd stack the grain and thrash that clear up into November.

As a result dad and Tub having the old thrashing machine, I was probably twelve or thirteen years old and there was nobody to run the machine except the old men and the kids. I spent an awful lot of time, twelve or fourteen hours a day on that machine when I was thirteen and fourteen years of age. You were treated like the men. You did the same work the men did. That wasn't just me, but

all the young kids at that time. Why, they'd pull that now days, the child abuse people would be down on top of you. But, we'd work ten, twelve, fourteen hours a day on that old thrashing machine. Kids worked too, they didn't get no special treatment. Even when I was probably thirteen or fourteen years old there wasn't all these bridges across Ashley Creek that there is now. My dad pulled that old machine around with an iron tired tractor. Then, you had to have fuel and the coal truck. Often times I'd drive the coal truck and follow the machine or go to the next job, one job to another. I didn't have a drivers license but it didn't matter because somebody had to do it, and they looked around and I was the only one there so I had to drive the coal truck and the fuel truck. If the human rights people would have come along in them days like they would today, we'd all get thrown in jail. But, it had to be done, so you done it. It wasn't just me, but it was kids my age, my friends, your uncles, the Bowden kids, Don, Jay and Walt, they did the same thing I did. I mean we were doing man's work when we were very young. Well everybody did. The kids on this street, there would be old Jude Hacking, he would work, we were doing men's work from the time we was probably fourteen or fifteen years old. One reason was a lot of the young guys were off in the war. It just fell to us to do it.

Elaine: Did you like school Pudge?

Pudge: Oh, good lordie yes. Like Bev said, it was all the neighbor kids. We got to school the same way. We'd walk. We'd get to school or come home all together as a rule. We played together. In the summer time we made our own entertainment. All the neighborhood would go swimming or get a baseball game going out in somebody's pasture. There was no such thing as organized sports.

That's where I guess my dad got this idea when he say's you need a rope and a tree to raise a boy, and it sure helps to have a creek that they can play in too with this rope and tree. But anyway that's the difference then; kids made their own entertainment. You'd build you a tree house or you'd make you a horse cart and hook your horse to it.

One of the first means of travel that I ever had, my brother and I bought an old buggy from Ike Jones for seven dollars. It had schaves in it for one horse and we'd hook our little old black saddle horse to it. We bought that buggy for seven dollars, and let me tell you that took probably two summers of work. It's a shame the livestock ruined it because I still have the running gear down here in the yard of that old buggy. We bought a buggy rather than buy a bicycle, because we had a horse to pull it.

A lot of kids had bicycles. I don't think I had a bicycle until I was probably twelve years old. That was a luxury item.

Elaine: I know when you were in high school you got involved in the agriculture program, the FFA.

Pudge: Well, yeah. In fact in my household, my dad and my mother, mainly my dad though, he believed if you belonged to any thing you should support it. You shouldn't take out without putting back in. He always advocated if you're going to be in an organization of any kind by gosh it was your responsibility and obligation to assume your responsibilities and contribute to the cause. He did it. Yeah, I was active in FFA and that, just because dad say's "Hey, if you're going to be in an organization, you be a good member. If you're going to be in a community you

contribute to the community and not just take from it.” That’s been a philosophy that I was kind of raised on. I think Bev’s family kind of had the same philosophy that if you’re going to live in a community you got to put a little back into it.

Dad always made sure that when I was in something that I did my share. That was his idea of getting by. I think it’s a pretty good idea.

Elaine: Who was the FFA teacher then?

Pudge: We had a guy by the name of Doyle Landon. He came to Vernal the year I went to high school. In 1944, that was his first year here. He became a good friend with my dad and my family. I just really liked Doyle, and Doyle liked to come up to our place. We got involved with FFA. He was one of the most outstanding school teachers I ever had.

Elaine: I was going to ask you who your favorite teacher was.

Pudge: Oh, I had so many good ones. I had Stella Richards; she was an outstanding teacher. Maesy Hall and Ruth Steinaker, Clark Larson. They were all good teachers. The reason that kids liked them was because they demanded respect and they got it. Of course they had the authority in them days, if a kid give them any lip, they could discipline for it. Kids admired them because they had a little authority and the ability to discipline. I liked all my school teachers. Stella Oaks was another teacher. That’s Dallin Oaks’ mother. Old Doc Jenkins that’s over in the care center in Roosevelt.

A friend of mine and I used to stop by and visit with him occasionally. I got to tell you this story about Doc. One time we was somewhere, a bunch of men, I think we was over to the sale. This friend of mine, Udell Gardner (Fat Gardner), we always visited with Doc because he taught here a couple of years. Anyway, we was over at the Sale Barn one time and somebody said, “How come you know old Doc Jenkins?” And I said, “He used to be my school teacher. Old Fat Gardiner and me, we’re what we are today because of him.” And old Doc was sitting down “Why, you son of a gun, don’t you accuse me of that” he says.

But anyway I never had a bad school teacher I don’t think. I liked them all.

Elaine: Do you remember any special holidays or traditions as a child, family traditions?

Pudge: Oh, yes we never bought candy at Christmas time. We always made our candy. And real early we used to make a lot of our own tree decorations. I remember building these little paper chains and hanging them on the Christmas tree. My gosh, popcorn, we’d always make popcorn. I don’t think we ever bought much candy. We’d make popcorn balls and homemade candy. Well I think everybody did.

What was done in years gone by that people don’t do anymore. Our church advocates having a supply of food on hand for a year or so. Sixty or seventy years ago everybody always had a years supply. They would have a root cellar with a years supply of potatoes, carrots, cabbages, wheat and stuff like that.

I remember when my dad came to the old Vernal Flour Mill, which is down there where the Power House Theater sits on 500 North Vernal Avenue. The Vernal Mill sit there. I remember going up there with a wagon box full of wheat. They would grind it and make it into flour. We’d

have as much as a thousand pounds of flour to take home. That would last us for a year. And a lot of other people done that, but I do remember going there with a wagon box full of wheat, putting it in the hopper, and you went around to the other door after a few hours and load up the sacks of flour. There would be nine or ten sacks of flour.

We'd have apples, we had our cellar that we stored our own apples in, cabbages, they'd make sauerkraut and they even smoked their own meat. In fact, that little tin building sitting down there behind my dad's house right today is the old smoke house. You'd kill pigs and smoke the hams and the bacon. The unique way of keeping them, we'd put them in the grain bin. Bury them in the grain bin and that would keep them. They'd never mold and the grain would insulate it and keep it cool in the summer. Most people would buy sugar and coffee and pepper and salt at the store, but most everybody made their own bread. They made their own jam, they canned fruit in the summer, and all the vegetables out of the garden. My mother would put up five or six hundred quarts of vegetables and fruit every year. It was a year's supply. It's just common sense. It's too bad we have lost a lot of these customs. I guess one reason is now because of modern technology, you can almost buy fruit cheaper than you can do it yourself, buy the fruit and process it. But it still lacks the quality of the homemade stuff. Dad used to make sauerkraut. He'd shred the cabbage and salt it and press it and put it in a wooden drum, wooden barrel, and set it out on the north side of the building where it would stay cool in the Fall of the year. Then it would actually freeze, you'd put salt and salt-peter and keep it pressed. I remember coming home from school and I'd never go in the house until I go around the north side of the building and take the lid off and stand there and probably eat two or three cups full of sauerkraut before I'd go in the house because it was delicious. It would have slithers of ice in it, been sitting there outdoors. But the quality, oh man that old sauerkraut was delicious.

Elaine: Beverly, do you have any memories of traditions?

Beverly: Oh, I can remember growing up, to me one of the most favorite holidays, was Valentines. We did it a lot different back when I was growing up than it's done today. Our houses were quite close in our neighborhood and we used to have a little string thing that we'd tie on the end of the valentine. Then, we'd go over to the porch and ring the bell, and when they'd come to the door, they'd reach down to pick up the valentine and we'd pull it away. That was really fun to do. We thought that was really a good trick. Like I say, we lived in a good neighborhood where the houses were all close together and it was easy to do, and whatever we did, we walked. We didn't have any transportation so we always walked. But, I used to like valentines because in our school classes we'd always decorated our valentine boxes. It was always so much fun to take that valentine box home. The teachers would never let us do it at school. We had to take them home to go through the valentines. It was always fun to see the different valentines and the messages that was written on the back of them. Valentines was just always a real favorite of mine.

I don't really remember too much Christmas tradition when I was growing up except like Pudge said, most everything we made at home. We made the popcorn, we made the candy. I remember we used to make these little Christmas chains in school. We would use green and red colored paper. Then we'd be able to take our chain that we made in school home and put it on the Christmas trees. Christmas back in those days was more like it should be. It was more a celebration of the Saviors birth. It wasn't so commercialized. It was maybe like if you were really lucky you might receive two Christmas packages, but most of the time it was one. But, that

package was really appreciated. I can remember in my years about five until eight all the girls on the street used to spend all day long Christmas day, playing. We always used to get a new doll. We used to take those dolls and we'd go to the different houses and as we went to one house we'd pick up the girls that lived there and time we'd get down to the end of the street, which was almost down to Ashley Creek, my aunt and uncle lived there. We would have all the girls in the neighborhood with their new dolls to go show the neighbor girls what doll they had gotten that year. That was one thing that was really fun.

Another favorite holiday of mine growing up was Thanksgiving because we always ate Thanksgiving dinner at my Grandmother Siddoway's house with all the cousins. We didn't all get together for Christmas, but we all got together for Thanksgiving at my Grandmother Siddoway's house. She had a lovely big home, two story, and a great big beautiful winding stairway up to her upstairs. Our favorite thing to do was play on that staircase, all the time we were there, sliding down the banister, and up and down the steps. I can remember one day our mothers were getting after us and my grandmother stepped in the hall way and she said, "Now, you ladies, you leave those children alone. They're only children once and you let them enjoy themselves." That was my grandmother. She had all the patience in the world.

To me I was always real anxious for Thanksgiving and Valentines to come because those were my favorites. We had those special times.

Elaine: Beverly what were you involved in when you were in high school?

Beverly: I was in the Pep Club, which was a club to support the athletic programs. We used to always march at the activities and basketball games and stuff like that. I always loved to dance when I was in school. I had way too much nonsense in my head when I was in school. I wish now if I could do one thing, I would go back and take advantage of the education part that was there because I was always interested in having a good time.

I was chairman of our Junior Prom. That was something that we worked all winter for. We started right after the first of the year. My Grandmother Siddoway would let us go down there. We made paper roses and waxed them. I think we made over two thousand paper roses that we decorated for our prom with. Grandma had a big dining room table and we'd go sit down around that and make paper roses. Then when we got a bunch made we'd wax them. We had a beautiful prom. I've always wished that I had pictures of the decorations. Our theme was Mardi Gras. We had that old Imperial Hall decorated just beautiful.

That was one thing in Vernal that never should have been destroyed was that old Imperial Hall. That dance floor was on springs and it was the most wonderful thing in the world to dance on, that dance floor in the old Imperial Hall. At the time they destroyed it, it had gotten real run down. But, it should have been taken care of. It should have been preserved. That's one thing in Vernal that should have been preserved. At one time they had their wrestles down there and they let it get real dirty and real run down. They didn't keep it as clean as they should have done.

But, it's where we had all of our Junior Proms when I was in high school. The junior class was always responsible for decorating. They had their own theme and they decorated.

I just liked to be active in everything in school. Where ever anything was going on, that's where I liked to be. But I would like to say one thing about one of my school teachers. I had a lot of good school teachers but I thought this lady was really outstanding. Her name was Electa Caldwell.

When you had a class from Electa Caldwell, you came out of that class and you knew what you had learned, because she was a teacher. She taught. She had the ability to bring out in everybody

in her class to want to do the very best, which I think is an outstanding talented teacher.

Pudge: Mr. Lundell was a good teacher.

Beverly: I had Harold Hullinger and I had Harvey Hullinger and I had Stella Oaks. I just loved to be active just doing what ever I could do in school.

Pudge: I think one of the things that is one of the biggest disasters that's hit in this world is the fact that people are not self reliant as they used to be. You get in a bind now, you stick your hand out for the government to come and help you out. If you want to get a college education, well there's some kind of government program to help you. Well start when you're six years old preparing yourself to go to college. The same with these missionaries. Save your money and be self reliant. Oh, it's a shame people are becoming more dependent on other people to do things for them.

Elaine: Is there anything more you can remember about high school or any of your school years?

Pudge: Well I'll tell you what I remember about high school. I graduated from high school with eighty nine students and we have a class reunion every five years and have had ever since then. The group that I graduated from high school with are just like one big family, almost every kid in that class. Isn't that right Beverly?

Beverly: That's right and my class was the same way. That's the way it used to be back then.

Pudge: There was eighty nine. We had a little get together last August and since then four of them has died. That makes fifty six out of the eighty nine that have died. Even to this day every time there's a funeral for any member of our class, we have a fund set up. We make sure that every person gets a bouquet of flowers.

When we was running around together, we'd go in a bunch. You'd run in to six or eight kids and that's who you traveled with. I mean, we had the most friendly bunch of kids in my class.

Elaine: What were some of your friends names?

Pudge: Some of my best old friends was old Dan Thacker that used to live up Dry Fork. I spent as much time up there with him as I did at my own home when ever I could get away. There was the McKee kids over here on the corner, old Roy McKee. The Pitt kids. Of course Roy's gone and Old Dan and old Udell Gardiner. Thad Stringham lived over here on this corner. Jude Hacking over here. Emma Bowden was in my class. They were just all a big happy group of kids, and they still are. Right to this day, if I ever get in a bind or needed anything I could just pick the phone up and call any one of my class members and I know they'd come to help out. That's just the way they are. But, we've lost fifty six of the eighty nine.

Elaine: Do you remember any fun or interesting things you did for activities besides school?

Beverly: When we went to school the main interest was most of the kids were to the dances. We

had wonderful dances. Everybody danced, everybody loved to dance. Now a days it's kind of a lost art, the way that they dance today isn't like it used to be when we were going to school.

Pudge: Up here on this ole High Line Canal right up here, when I was a kid it wasn't all brushed over. Old Thad Stringham and Jude Hacking, and Roy McKee and Danny Turner, the Bowden kids, and the Pitt kids, Rex and Bill McKee and Roy, we used to skate. There was water in that canal all winter and it would freeze over and there was no trees along there. We would skate for twelve miles up and down that canal. My gosh, we'd go until you'd just get so tired you'd just fall over. We did that a lot. We did a lot of ice skating. Root had a pond over here an acre in size. My gosh, in the winter, all the kids in the neighborhood congregated there to ice skate, the Ashby kids, the Bowden kids, the Merkley kids, we just had a perpetual bon fire going there in the winter and we'd ice skate at night.

Elaine: Did you swim in it in the summer?

Pudge: No, it wasn't that deep. We swam up here in the canal up here. There was lots of good swimming holes up there.

Elaine: So how did you actually meet and when did you meet?

Beverly: In high school. I think I was a sophomore and I think Pudge was a junior.

Pudge: Where did we meet?

Beverly: It was kind of a funny meeting. A bunch of us had all been to a party and Jude Hacking was there. He came up and said to me, "Bev, I've got a friend I'd like to have you meet." And I said, "Oh, really. Who is he?" And he said, "Come and go with me and I'll show him to you." This was kind of an embarrassing situation because I didn't know what I was getting into. We came up to Maeser. And I said, "Well, who is this?" And he said, "Well, his names Pudge Merkley." And he said, "He lives right up by me." I had known Jude because Jude's father and my father were in the sheep business. They were both sheep men. There were several times over our life time that Root and my father would go someplace and Root would bring Jude down to my mothers home to stay while they were gone because his mother wouldn't be home for some reason. So, I had known Jude and he dated one of my best friends, Sandra Larsen. So, she was with us that night. So we came up here to Maeser. We went over to Pudge's house and he wasn't home. So we started back over the street and Jude said, "Oh, well there's his truck." Well he had a date with another girl. He had gone up to take her home. So we sit there and waited until he come down out of the lane and he stopped to talk to Jude. Jude said, "Come and go with us for awhile, I want you to meet somebody" Now this is the way I remember it. We went over to Pudge's house.

Pudge: Well who did I have?

Beverly: You had Marilyn Barker, and you were up to Pearl and _____? _____ Allen's taking her home.

Pudge: Oh, over here.

Beverly: So, we went over to Pudge's place, and I thought right at the time, my goodness he's a sneaky little kid. He parked the truck, and went in the house, made his mother think he was home and then he came out his bedroom window and came back around and out to the truck and went with us. That's how I met him.

Pudge: I had my gall too, but I didn't sneak out no window.

Beverly: Yes you did. Well you said you did, that's all I know. I know that you went in the back door and you came out from around the house.

Elaine: It's all right, your mother will understand now if you did.

Beverly: So, that's how I met him. That was the very first time I met him.

Pudge: Well, I'll be darn, I thought we met right all through high school.

Beverly: I was a sophomore, just at the beginning of my sophomore year and his junior year. And then we dated all the rest of the way through high school.

Pudge: When we got out of school I went up to Logan to school and I really enjoyed that. I like Logan up to Utah State. When I was a senior in high school I had the grand champion steer at the Inter-mountain Livestock Show in Salt Lake City, which took in seven western states. That was a big show. But, I happened to have the grand champion steer.

Beverly: Tell how much it sold for.

Pudge: I've sold truck loads of cattle since then for less money than I got out of that one steer. That steer sold for \$3,813.00 is what he brought. That was a bunch of money. That would have been in 1948. In 1948, \$4,000 was a lot of money. I bought me a car, a 1941 Chevrolet and then went to school. I was able to go for two years and I run out of money and I came home. I was going to go to work for the oil field and never did.

Beverly: I remember thinking, "Gosh, if that young man can raise cattle that sells for that much, I better hang on to him." But, he never sold one for that much since.

Pudge: That was the luckiest brake in my life. That steer brought all that money and I went to school two years on that money out of that one steer. I didn't have any money other wise. I wouldn't had a dime. I would have never got to go.

Elaine: Did you get married right after you finished school?

Beverly: Oh no, we didn't get married, Pudge went to school two years, I went out to Provo to

school one quarter. We got married in 1951.

Pudge: Well yeah, I worked in the oil field for two years. I went back to Nebraska and Wyoming and traipsed around the oil field.

Beverly: My sister moved to Montana and I went up there and stayed with her for a while. Then, I came home and went to work down at the Hotel Vernal as a desk clerk. I worked there for a year. Then, we got married that fall. We got married in September of 1951. We dated for four or five years before we got married. We should have known each other very well.

Elaine: Do you have any more fun dating stories?

Beverly: Pudge used to have a car, and every place we went, we pushed that car. That was the truth. I remember one night, we'd been on a date and we had to push that car. Pudge would always sit in it and I would do the pushing. It took me a while to figure that out. But anyway we went some place and the car stopped on us and so I was pushing it and when I got home I got really, really sick. I went to bed, and then I got back up because I was so sick.

Pudge: Was that, that blue Ford.

Beverly: Yes, that little navy blue Ford. My mother came in the bathroom and she said, "What's the matter." And I said, "I don't know mom, but I'm really sick." Well I had ruptured my appendix pushing that car. So in about thirty minutes I was over in the hospital having my appendix out. But I hated that car from then on because it had made me so sick.

But, we used to have lots of fun together. We both loved to dance and we liked to dance together. I think that was the one thing that really drew us together was we had lots of fun dancing.

Pudge: Good Lordy, we did, we went everywhere. We did lots of stuff, parties, barbecues, we did it all.

Beverly: Yeah we did, we had a good time.

Pudge: And my folks used to let us come up to there place and let us have a party any time we wanted to.

Beverly: My folks and his folks had gone to school together. My mother and his mother and father were both born close, his father was born the 20th of September, my mother was born the 10th of October, and his mother was born the 2nd of November 1906. So, they had gone to school together. In fact I remember my mother going to his brothers funeral. I would have just been a kid but I remember my mother was fixing flowers to take to the funeral. Of course my mother went to every funeral there ever was in Vernal. But she said, "This is good friends that I went to school with, and they lost their son." And, I remember her going to Don's funeral. Of course I didn't know at the time who they were or who Pudge was or anything. But, I can remember my mother going to Don's funeral when he died.

We just have had lots of fun together. We got married in 1951 and we've had a good life but we've worked hard. Everything Pudge and I have today, we've earned. We never had anybody

give us anything. Lot's of people do have it but we didn't. We started out with nothing and we worked really hard.

I told my husband the other night, I said, "You know, I'm really proud of us because we've accumulated quite a bit and we know how we got everything we've got.

Elaine: Where did you live when you first got married?

Beverly: When we first got married we lived in a little trailer house in his folks yard that we bought from June and Lanae Merkley. We just stayed in that but when winter came it got so cold we couldn't stay in it. We moved in Pudge's old room in his fathers house. Then the next spring we rented an old house over on the main Maeser road across from Caldwell's. It had been a big family home and they had divided it into two apartments. The little Mrs. Caldwell lived in one side and we lived in the other. We paid \$25 a month rent and you cannot believe what we went through to pay that \$25 rent.

Then we moved from their down to Uncle Lorn Hatches house which was down the street about a half mile. We lived there until we built this home. We moved in this home in 1959. We've lived here ever since.

We've had lots of businesses. We've been 'Jack of all Trades and Master of None', because Pudge has always farmed and had livestock. We was in the sheep business. I loved the sheep and the lambs, but the dogs put us out of business three times so we just finally gave it up. But, I always loved my lambs, and loved to raise the lambs.

Pudge worked for Piedmont Dairy when we first got married. He had a route out through Rangely. He delivered milk out there.

Pudge: I didn't run that route after we was married did I?

Beverly: Oh yeah, you did for the first few months. Then you worked in the plant. The Piedmont Dairy Plant.

Pudge: That was a dairy that processed milk there just north of the store corner. Right there where Meadow Gold is. The Meadow Gold building, that was Piedmont. I worked there and they'd process milk and cream and made icecream.

Beverly: It was run by Cliff and Elaine Perry and Oakley and Ray Larsen owned it. Pudge worked for them and then after we were married they let me go down there and work with the books for awhile. I did a little book keeping and we both worked there.

Then Pudge left and went to work for the State of Utah, in the Motor Vehicle Department. Then I went to work at Ashton Brother's. I worked in the office at Ashton Brother's for probably about a year and then Wayne was born. So, I didn't want to work anymore. I stayed home while he was a baby. That's when we lived in the old Caldwell home. We was living there when he was born.

Then, Terel was born in 1956. I just helped Pudge during the busy time. They used to license all the cars from January to March. He used to have to have extra help down to his office. They let him hire me so I would work down there with him through those three months of the year.

Pudge: Let's see we bought that place over there right after we was married didn't we.

Beverly: In March. We got married in September and bought it in March. We bought that farm around the Maeser Cemetery. We had that whole farm.

Pudge: There where Cotton Wood Heights subdivision is. We bought that six months after we were married. We got married and I borrowed money and have been in debt ever since.

Beverly: I'll tell you what he means by borrowed money. My Uncle Wallace Siddoway, was involved in a horse race the day of our wedding. Pudge was down there to the horse race.

Pudge: Well it was old Hunt Watkins and Woody Searle. They had these two horses. These two guys, Woody Searle had a horse and Hunt Watkins had a horse. They were both good horses. So they had a match horse race. Man, everybody in the country was betting on them. So I was down there the day we got married. I went down to see this horse race and so Wallace Siddoway and Hunt Watkins, we went out to the paddock where they was saddling horses and they bet a lot of money. They got talking and, "Five hundred dollars says you can't beat him." So anyway they already had a lot of money bet on them. So I was standing there and he said, "Here Pudge, you hold the stakes." They each gave me five hundred dollars. They run the race and Wallace won the money. Well, there was a big crowd of people and when the race was over I couldn't find old Wallace to give him his money. I looked around there and couldn't find him and I had to get home because I was getting married in a couple hours. I come home with his money.

We went to the wedding and then we went on a little trip. I had all this money. Good Lordy, we got out in Salt Lake. We was to the State Fair Grounds. First we went over through Colorado and then we wound up at the State Fair. I got caught up in one of those con games. I spent about forty or fifty dollars at once.

So when we came home I went down to Wallace's house. We was gone four or five days. So I went down to his house to take him his money. He said, "Oh, I thought maybe you'd just use that for a wedding present." He didn't care. I was apologizing because I couldn't find him but I said, "Wallace, I had to go because I was getting married that night."

"Oh yeah, I knew you was and I just figured you took that money for a wedding present." He said he didn't care.

But, we got married on borrowed money and we stayed in debt until about four years ago.

Elaine: So you had a farm over by the cemetery and then when did you buy the store in Maeser?

Pudge: After I sold that.

Beverly: You sold that the year after your father died. We bought the store in 1971 the year your father died, but first we had the drive-in. We built the A&W Drive-In in 1963.

Pudge: Man that was a work house, but it was fun.

Beverly: We ran it for nineteen years. We employed about twenty girls at a time. We had some really, really good times down there. The funniest thing that ever happened down there and it was kind of a disaster but it was funny. We laughed our heads off. Pudge's aunts, Nola McNiel and

Neva Burton worked down there. They were our cooks when we first opened. And I'll tell you they were good cooks. One day we were making the root beer. We used to make it in these forty gallon bats. Neve went down to the basement to get the sugar. You had to put the water in and then you had to put the syrup in and the sugar in. So Neve went down to get the sugar. She came up and we poured it in there. Pretty soon somebody came back, one of the car-hops came to the window and said, "The customers are complaining. That root beer tastes salty." I said, "Neve, where did you get the salt." Oh her face went so red, and we had put salt in it instead of sugar.

Pudge: Forty pounds.

Elaine: Oh, that's a lot of salt.

Beverly: Forty pounds of salt we put in that root beer. So, we had to drain the whole thing out and drain the lines to not have problems with the bat. It really wasn't funny but yet it was funny to us. I remember Neve sit down on the floor, and she just sit there and laughed, and she said, "I can't believe I did that, I can't believe I did that."

So lots of times we had to make every thing funny around there to survive because we worked hard.

Pudge: We opened that thing at nine o'clock in the morning and lots of days I wouldn't get away from there till two or three o'clock the next morning and then be back there at nine the next morning to open it. That went on for seven or eight years.

Beverly: Pudge was married to that drive-in for the nine years we had it. He spent more time down there than he did home. He felt like if he was going to run it, he had to be there. Because every time he'd leave, something would go wrong. Then we'd have trouble. He dedicated his life to that drive-in for nine years.

Pudge: The funniest thing that ever happened down there and I still here about it. We had the best kids in the world work for us. They were good kids. We chose them more on their back grounds a lot, than maybe their abilities were. But, they were a good kind of people. But anyway there was Caroline McConkie, she worked for us for years. These young girls, we had Pam Jackson, and her sister Pat, and Carolyn and Jerry. They were just tormenting me and giving me all kinds of trouble. And it was raining. They was just giving me a lot of trouble, so when we closed up at night I'd have to stay in and do the book keeping and they'd all go home. I noticed this one night, and I knew they was up to something but I didn't know what it was. But they took my car and they pushed it down the road so I wouldn't have a car. I had a little station wagon that I had all painted up. There was Pam and Pat and Carolyn.

Beverly: Somebody just the other day told me that they were in on that because they said, "Oh, Pudge had me thrown in jail." It was Floy Johnson's little daughter.

Pudge: Yeah, Larine Johnson and Larry Oldroyd's daughter Joyce. She's Joyce Johnson now. But anyway I was down there back in the corner and they didn't think I paid any attention. I happened to glance out the window as they was pushing this down around the corner. So I just go over to

the telephone. Jack Boren was a Vernal City Policeman. I said, "Jack, I want you to help me out with a little project." So they pushed that car down the street by the high school. I told Jack, "Come up and catch them for me and take them down to the jailhouse."

"Alright" he say's, "Will their parents care." And I said, "Oh, they're not going to care, we're just having a little fun." So he came and loaded them six girls in his paddy wagon and took them down to the jail house for steeling my car. He told them, "This car's been reported stolen." So he gathers them up, puts em in the car and hauls them to jail. And it was raining. It rained like the dickens. It was right after they built that new jail house under the new court house. So, I went in and the doors right there and I was talking real loud and said, "Boy some dirty clowns stole my car and I'm going to have him put away forever for that." Old Jack said, "There was six of them that stole your car." And he said, "I got em, they don't look too bad but they might be bad hombre's." So anyway, after we stood there in front of the door talking like that so they could here me, he opened the door and here they set, just dripping wet. They was sitting at a table in one of these rooms.

Beverly: They was bawling.

Pudge: I said, "Oh, Jack did these people steel that car." And I said, "I know some of them. I don't know em all, but I think I know some of them. But I'll sign a paper and have them put in jail." So we closed the door and about that time here come a little old Indian Lady. She was a drunk Indian lady so I told her, I said, "Here, I'll give you money if you'll go in there and just be friendly with them girls in that jail cell." She was just wanting to get out of the rain. I said, "I'll give you five dollars. Just go in there and be friendly to them, be nice to em." So she did, she took my five dollars and she went in to associate with these criminals that was in there.

But anyway I left them there for an hour or so and then went and turned them out. But, right to this day, Joyce Johnson and Pam Jackson and Pat, they just still remember. I still call them criminals. Every time I get a chance I tease them about being convicts. They're ex-convicts. That's been fifty years ago.

Beverly: We had a lot of good years in the drive-in. It was the first time in our life that we ever made any real money that we could call our own, that we could pay off on our debts and it was a good living for us. But, we had some partners in it and it got to be a bad partnership. So we had to get out of it.

Pudge: Oh, well it was a good deal. Like Bev said, we kind of had to press ourselves. We've never had a vacation. We never took a family vacation in our entire lives because we never could get away from our obligations. I worked an eight hour a day job and for about eight or nine years I farmed better than four hundred acres of ground right here in Maeser, besides working an eight hour a day job.

Elaine: I remember hauling hay for you.

Pudge: Yeah, I had some good ones. There was the Allen girls and Elaine Fisher. We've had a lot of good hands around here, good kids and help here on the farm and it's really been good.

Elaine: We used to come here and have a big hot lunch during the middle of the work day.

Beverly: Yep, I fixed lot's and lot's of meals for the kids that used to work here. Right to this day, some of those young men will come and say to me, "I never ate a better meal than I ate at your table."

Elaine: I know my brother loved those meals also.

Beverly: Yeah that makes you feel good.

Pudge: Yeah, old Dale helped work in the hay field with us too.

Beverly: I remember little Ellis Caldwell down here that got killed. He ate dinner here at our home that day. I remember how sweet he was. Lisa was a baby and I had her in her highchair, and he was helping feed her. He got down and cleaned up on the floor where she slopped. I said, "Oh, you don't have to do that Ellis."

"Oh, yeah I'll do it." And in about five hours he had that accident down there.

We had some good young men and young women work for us here on the farm.

Then we sold the Drive-inn. Pudge's father had passed away. He was going to take over this ranch. He sold ours over there. For a year he just farmed. We found out this farming couldn't make the payments that we had. So then we sold our farm over there and bought the Country Cash Grocery Store.

Our oldest son Wayne helped us a lot with that. Wayne was good in the retail line. He was a peoples person. He could meet people real easy and Wayne loved it but Pudge didn't like it. As soon as Pudge bought the grocery store he decided he didn't like it. We had so much theft to put up with. We had all kinds of problems. Pudge decided, he told me one day, "I'm not supposed to just stand around cleaning heads of lettuce down. This isn't my thing." So he went back to work for the State and left Wayne and I to run the store. Wayne stayed with me about two years. Then, he left and went to work over at Park City. I ran the store for four more years. Then we sold it. By that time our family was raised and Lisa had graduated from high school and was going to be married, I remember coming home and sitting here and looking around at the house and I thought, "I've worked all the years that my family was being raised and now they're all married and gone and I'm going to sit here and look at this house. I don't like this house that well."

I went to a picnic and Doris Burton was there. I was talking to her about it, and I asked her, I said, "You don't need any help? She was the head librarian the, and I said, "You don't need any help at the library do you?" She looked at me and she said, "Well, as a matter of fact, we're going to hire somebody. Why don't you come and apply." So then I went to work at the library from the time we sold the grocery store until now.

Pudge: Another thing that we did years ago that they don't do now. We have some cattle range out in the desert out west of Red Wash, still got it. We used to drive our cattle down there and back. When there was not so much traffic. Sometimes in the spring when the river was really high we'd go clear down by Jensen and down the river and down that way. It would take about three days. Then in the fall of the year after the river would go down some we'd swim cattle across the river. That's the way we crossed the river, we'd swim them over and back. That was quite a harry job.

When we'd drive our cattle we'd spend time camping. I remember Ballie McNeil ? having a buck board with a camp in it once, but I wasn't in the drive then. We had put our camp in the pickup and we'd drive cattle back and forth. There wasn't all the cars and traffic and fences that you have to put up with now days. That's the way we used to go to a range, but now days we haul them in trucks. We put them in big trucks and haul them out there because you can't drive cows because of the traffic. That was quite an experience because we'd lay out at night and sometimes night herd the cows on the drive so they wouldn't get away from you. We drove them about fifty miles. It takes about three days and then coming this way it would take two days on the trail. I'm glad we don't have to do it anymore but we used to do it that way. Spend three days in the saddle and then lay out at night. Now we can load them in a truck and haul them down there, we have a corral down there and put them in a truck and haul them home. It isn't near as exciting but it's sure a lot easier.

Beverly: It's sure a lot less worry too. They get crossing that Green River and it can be kind of scary sometimes.

Pudge mentioned that we've never taken our family on vacations. This is true. I said, we used to take them up to our place on Diamond Mountain, but Terel said to me one day, "Mom, how come we never get to go on a vacation?" He said, "All we get to do is go to Diamond Mountain and we have to fix fence or we have to cut poles." He said, "That's not much of a vacation." Very, very, few vacations did our family ever went on together. And, that was a mistake. Sometimes when you're in debt and you're paying off debt, you don't think of anything except paying off that debt. It isn't fair to your families. In our whole life time we never went on one family vacation with our three children. One year we took Wayne and Terel and went to Disneyland. Pudge wouldn't let me take Lisa. He made me leave her home with his mother. So, that ruined my trip. I just worried about her all the time.

Pudge: She was just a little baby.

Beverly: She was three, and he said, "She's not even old enough to appreciate, you're not taking her." We even started out with her and her suitcase. We went to the top of the valley and Pudge turned around and I said, "Where are you going?" He said, "I'm taking Lisa back to my mother. We're not taking her to California."

So, our family never went on a vacation (all together). We took the boy's up to Yellowstone Park one year but that was before Lisa was born. So she didn't ever go on a family trip.

Pudge: I don't remember going to Yellowstone.

Beverly: We went to Dorothy's and stayed over night.

Pudge: We went over there one day, I guess that's right.

Beverly: We've had a good life, but if I could live my life again, I would take more time to take the kids on trips and things like this because after they get grown they don't do it.

Pudge: Well, the kids got to go. They weren't deprived. They got to go to the mountain and

horseback and do things like that, that a lot of kids would give their eye teeth to get to do.

Elaine: I remember going to the mountain a lot, and we had went on a few trips, but I always remembered the mountain. Those were my favorite trips.

Beverly: Well, it was my favorite, because I was raised on the mountain. I spent a lot of my younger years there. I always enjoyed the mountain. We had special friends, Thelma and Dan Thacker, and I always said, "I don't know of a woman that loves the mountain better than I do except Thelma." But, then her health went and she couldn't go. We had lots and lots of good trips on the mountain with Dan and Thelma and when Thelma got so she couldn't go because she needed oxygen. The last time we went up, she took her oxygen, but Dan had to bring her home in the middle of the night, back down to the valley, because she couldn't breathe. It seems like after my father died and Thelma died, it was never the same. We just had so many good times up there together. To go back to the mountain and not have them there, it just wasn't the same. We didn't have the same fun that we had with them.

But, I feel like we've had a good life. We've worked hard but we've enjoyed it.

Elaine: Were you in politics?

Pudge: I was County Assessor once.

Elaine: How many years did you do that?

Pudge: Eight years. I've always had a side job besides running all these dumb farms. I had to have a good job to keep them going I guess. No, Elaine, beings you say that, one time for years and years I had between four and five hundred acres I was farming and working a job, and you know I never worked a day in a life. I enjoyed it. All that time I was enjoying it and having fun.

Beverly: I've seen him sometimes when he didn't look like he was having too much fun.

Pudge: Yeah, but it's been a good life. Lynn Runolfson's wife come pushing their little grandson down the road this morning and I was there currying my old horse so she come over wanting to know if the little kid could pet the horse. So, I got him some grain and let him feed the horse and pet it. I told Julie, "You know Julie, that horse and that dog right there, that's the two best friends you can have in this world. They won't lie to you or they won't cheat you. They won't do anything dishonest to you." And, I believe that. I've enjoyed animals. I've enjoyed my animals and the land all my life. That's been a vacation. It hasn't been work.

Elaine: Beverly, what was the library like when you first started?

Beverly: Well, it was very different than it is today. There was about four employees there. At that time and up to the time the change was made this year, there was only three people that could work full time. That was the director, the assistant director, and then when the history room was added. When I first started there was two people that could work full time. That was the director and the assistant. Then when the history room was organized, the head of the history room could also be on full time. The rest of us had to stay under forty hours.

When I first started to work Doris was the director and Rae Rasmussen was the assistant. We had no pages. When I first started we put our own books away at night after the library was closed. We had to stay until everything was shelved before we could go home. There was Venna Baker and myself that worked the desk. There was two shifts. She worked part of it and I worked part of it. Everything was done manually; there was no computer. The filing system was completely different because the patrons left their cards there at the library and then when they came in they asked for their card. We got their card, checked out their books, and filed their cards back. So the patron never took their card out. Every book had a pocket in with a card and you'd stamp the due date on the card and at night we filed all the book cards alphabetically. They say, "It's so busy today." But, we used to have to take about six steps to check a book out, where all they have to do today is run a card under the scanner.

But, we used to have to take the card out, hunt the patron card, take the cards out, stamp the cards and then file the cards alphabetically. We had a big thing set there where all the book cards were filed. Then there was two ladies that worked there, maybe two or three hours a day. One of them was Peggy Freestone. Peggy did the mending and the processing. She did it all back in a little

room that wasn't hardly big enough to turn around in.

Then in the evening Mary Ellen Campbell worked there. She was the one that would make the calls on the over due books. She worked a couple hours in the evening and that's all she did was call the over dues.

After I had worked there probably about six months, they got permission to hire pages. They hired Melody Kidd and Letha Stevens. Those were the first two pages that started to work there. Then they worked different shifts and they would put the books away.

Doris did all the children's programs. The back part now, where the office is, that was the children's library, and that's where all the children's programs were held, was back in there. At the time I started work the part that is the processing (work room) office, that was where the junior section of the library was. That's where all the junior books and the easy readers; that was the children's library.

They added on after I worked there. As business increased, they increased the pages. They used to always have high school pages, which I loved because I felt like it gave the youth an opportunity to work in a real good clean place. We had some really, really good pages. I can only think of one or two in all the pages we had that didn't do a really good job. I felt like (most of them) did an excellent job. The problem there was, we didn't have anybody to page through the day time, so we had shelves there where the computers sit today. We had book shelves there where as the books were checked in they were put there. Then, when the pages came in after school, they would re-shelve everything.

I was the other night trying to figure out, and I put down fifty people that have passed through the library since I've worked there. They're not there anymore, they've just come and gone. I think it was in about 1988 they added the computers. They were remodeling, they was adding that on that back part. So, while they were remodeling we went to work every day, but we put every book in the library on the computers. Of course, the computer program has been wonderful, when everything's working it's really neat. But, I remember thinking when we first went to computers, "I'm too old, I can't learn this computer program." But Creed had his own method of doing things. He took you personally and taught you what you were going to be doing. You did that one job. Venna and I were just taught what we did at the front desk

But, I liked the idea of high school pages because it gave them an opportunity. I went in the hospital the other day and this young man was in there and he spoke to me. I thought, "Now, I've worked with him, he was a page." I couldn't remember him, his face was familiar, and I couldn't remember his name. He had just had baby twins that day. He had a little girl and a little boy. And I thought, "Oh I know that young man." We visited back and forth and I could remember he worked there but his name had left me. I asked a little lady that was there, she say's, "That's Kevin Remmington." And I thought, "Oh, my gosh, of course." He had worked there but I hadn't seen him since he left and went on a mission. I went to his mission farewell. I hadn't seen him since that day. Some of them came back in the library and a lot of them didn't. But to me it was really exciting to have those young pages. It was interesting to me to see the different work ethics that those children had. But most of them worked very, very, well.

Tho outstanding one in my mind was Michael Jackson, of course they were all good. But, Michael came in, he went to work, he was never idle. That boy was doing something every minute he was in there. He would do his work. You never had to speak to him about anything because he just knew what he was to do and he did it. I thought he was an outstanding worker. They were all good kids. I felt bad when they dropped the high school pages because there's not too many places when you're in high school to work. I just thought it was a good idea.

I always loved my job at the library. I've made a lot of good friendships and had a lot of good people to work with. It's been fun to see it progress and develop into what it is today from what it was when I first started to work there.

Elaine: Is there any controversial issues in the community and how they were resolved, or any big events that happened in Vernal?

Beverly: Well, I think the worst thing that happened in Vernal was the people in this community not backing up this community college. We had the grant for it, we had everything going for us and they voted it down.

Pudge: The college that's in Roosevelt should have been here in Vernal.

Beverly: We had the grant for it. As Pudge was working on the Commission at this time, we'd travel around through the state. People would come up and say, "What kind of people do you have out in Vernal?" I said, "Oh, they're wonderful people out in Vernal, why?" "Well they must be stupid to vote down that college, because you had the grant for it." In fact, when we went to Moab, two or three people said, "Well we certainly thank you"

Pudge: Tom Scott, the mayor of Moab, razzed me up in Ogden, because he went down to the Community Impact Board and got the money, million and a half dollars, the next day after these people here in Vernal voted that college down.

Beverly: He got half of it for a golf course and the other half -----

Pudge: They built a golf course with the money we should have had a college with.

Beverly: I never could understand that. I thought that was a bad mistake.

Pudge: Oh Elaine, I've been involved in community and politics and projects, irrigation projects and school activities all my life because I think you should. Anybody that don't take an active part, it's their responsibility to do that.

Elaine: Is there any that stand out in your mind?

Pudge: The Central Utah, building of Steinaker Dam and the building of Red Fleet Dam. That was the projects that had to be pushed from the inside. The building of the ball park. That ball complex down there. The first three diamonds that was down there didn't have one penny of tax dollars into it. People done it. I was in the Junior Chamber of Commerce. The J.C.'s done it. They built that ball complex without one iota of tax dollars, but they did it with community service and projects to raise the money.

The hospital, the old original hospital, that was before my time, but it was built without tax dollars. It was community effort. The people in the community built that old hospital we had down there where the hospital is now. I remember going down there and pushing a wheel barrel, pouring cement on the foundation, and a lot of other people, volunteers, it was volunteerism. There was the ball park, the tennis courts, the swimming pool, working on them free gratis to

make sure the community had them.

I remember old Ralph Preece and I hauling rocks down there for them tennis courts. We was supposed to had a bunch of people show up and him and I was the only two that showed up. We hauled rocks all one night to pour that cement.

The cemeteries are another thing. The cemeteries used to be run by, each cemetery had it's own independent board to manage it. Some of them did quite well and some of them didn't have anything. As a result of people like Rhoda Thorne and Alma Preece and my dad and mother, they got a county wide cemetery board and got the counties to assume the responsibility of maintaining and keeping the cemeteries up. That's why the cemeteries are like they are today. They're all well maintained. Some of them used to be nothing but sagebrush and junk and were just not maintained. Things like that is all done with community service, volunteerism.

I can name you projects I've worked on, the rodeo grounds, when the J.C.'s took over the rodeo, the old corrals and everything was in shambles. The J.C.'s took it among themselves to rebuild those rodeo grounds. Of course they've been updated since then. That was fifty years ago. I was chairman of that committee to oversee the building of those rodeo grounds that had gone to shambles. That was all community service work.

Beverly: For years the J.C.'s run the concession stand at the rodeo all the time. We spent many, many hours down there.

Pudge: We built the grounds for them to have a rodeo, the J.C.'s. The swimming pool, the original swimming pool was another community project that was done mostly through volunteerism. Now, see those things don't happen now days. You want a swimming pool, you go some where with your hand out hoping somebody will give you the money to do it. Back in them days we'd put on projects and do fund raisers to raise money for those kinds of things.

Merkley Park, I wasn't involved but that was another one, the Lion's Club did that. They created these parks around and made the improvements on them all through community service.

Volunteerism, most of it volunteerism. That's the big difference in the ways things were years ago and the way they are now, how we get things done.

Elaine: What do you enjoy most in life? What is your greatest reward of how you've lived your life?

Beverly: My family.

Elaine: You had Wayne, and Terel and then Lisa.

Beverly: I have eleven grandchildren. This is the one thing in my life that I wanted to do was help raise my grandchildren and be active in their lives. I had a lot of friends that criticized me because I tended them so much. They'd say, "Well why don't you find a life of your own instead of always tending grandkids." I said, "Hey, this is my life, tending my grandkids." I can't think of one thing I would rather do than have my little grandkids in my home.

A year ago when my daughter had a seventy-fifth surprise birthday for me, and believe me, it was a surprise. There was everyone of my grandkids up there. The boys dressed in top hats and they had canes and they were there escorting the people into Lisa's home. This one friend of mine told me the other day, she said, "I don't believe I ever told you this, but I've got to tell you because it

really opened my eyes to things. Your one little grandson was escorting me in and I said, you're such a good sport to do this." He said, "Do you know what? There isn't anything I wouldn't do for my Grandma Bev." That's the most important thing.

The only regret I have is that I didn't get to spend more time with them. I was very fortunate because most days I had at least some of them in my home. Lisa's little Macall ?, after she was born with her health problem; she was in my home every day. I tended her before work or after work. I had her every day up until two years ago when she got old enough and she didn't want to come all the time. That was hard because I had had her so much. I feel like I've learned a lot from my grandkids. My one little granddaughter, Lisa's oldest girl, when Lisa had this party she had written me this letter. She told some things that was quite embarrassing, but children need this in their life. They need their grandparents. I think what made me so much that way with mine was because of how important I always felt like my grandparents were to me. I felt like I learned so much from them. I just felt like I wanted that closeness with them. I enjoyed being with my grandparents.

I think back over my life and some of the most choice memories that I have are of my grandchildren. I remember little Sydney, when he was little. I always loved to rock my grandchildren. I rocked my grandchildren and I sang to them. Lot's of times I felt like they were just listening, not because they wanted to, but some of them listening because they did want to. But, Sydney loved to have me rock him to sleep, but he always had to have his boots in his hand. He would take his boots off, but he would hold them all the time I was rocking him. When I'd lay him down I'd lay his boots right up by his head so when he woke up he could see those boots. That kind of a memory, nothing can take the place of. It's just so special. I just have felt like all the little grandchildren have been so special to me and each one has shown me something different about their life. When I see them today, now when I see Ashley with her little kids, and see how she runs her home, never anything out of place, her home is just perfect all the time, and she's such a good little mother, and I think, "I hope she learned some of that from me." And, what bigger reward could you have in life than to pass something like that on to your posterity.

Pudge: Grandma has been a good grandma, there's no gettin around it. And, our kids, we've been lucky, we had good kids that didn't get in trouble.

You know Elaine, I'll tell you something that people look at me crazy if I ever say it. People look at me sometimes, "Well you with all that land and all your livestock." Hell, I don't own that land and them livestock. The good Lord just let me use em for a little while. He just gives me the privilege of taking care of some of this land, and taking care of my animals. I developed a bond with both of them. I like the land. I like my animals. I've been lucky to have a good family. What more is in this old world. Guys say, "Well you could sell your land" Well, good Lordie, who cares. Who needs the damned money. I don't, I'd rather have the land. The good Lord trusted me with it and let me take care of it. He let me take care of them old horses and those old cows. They're not mine, they're just mine to take care of and use, and that's my philosophy on life. Worldly goods are not a hoot to you when it comes right down to it, your family like she's (Bev) talking about, and your friends, and your neighbors is what really makes this old world worth while. And, I've had the best darn neighbors starting right up here on the corner, right on down this street, the Bowden family, has been real important to me in my life. The Allen's and the Ashby's and the Murray's and the Hackings are just great people and that's the reward you get for living in this old world is having good neighbors and good friends.

